

THE AMERICAN

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

# RATIONALIST

1958

VOL. 3 • NO. 4

OUR POSITIVE PHILOSOPHY is best expressed by Alexander Pope in his "Essay on Man": "Know then thyself. Presume not God to scan, the proper study of mankind is man."

NEGATIVELY, we stand with Jefferson, eternally hostile to all forms of tyranny over the minds of men.

- **THE RATIONALIST CHALLENGE**

an Editorial by Lowell H. Coate

- **PROBLEMS OF RATIONALISM**

by James Hervey Johnson

- **IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE**

by Bertrand Russell

- **TO MAKE AMERICA CATHOLIC**

by Edd Doerr

- **A NEW BOOK BY RUSSELL**

by Ira D. Cardiff

- **AN IMPORTANT BOOK REVIEW**

by Corliss Lamont

- **THE WORLD UNION  
OF FREETHINKERS**

by George von Hilsheimer



UPTON SINCLAIR

- **A Report of the Annual American Rationalist Federation Convention in Milwaukee**

by Eldon Scholl

*The Magazine for the Entire Rationalist Movement*

NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT . . . BOOKS . . . COMMENTS

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# A VALEDICTORY

ARTHUR B. HEWSON



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## SNOOPERS

### Cyrus Eaton Calls For Moral Revival, Not Spies

Cyrus Eaton made a new attack on the House Un-American Activities Committee recently. He wrote that some of the members were "not noted for their intellectual depth or high ethical standards."

In an article written for the Cleveland Engineering Magazine, Mr. Eaton said that professional "snoopers" in the investigative branches of Government agencies had had a free hand for too long.

"What we need is not more snoopers to check on our citizens, but more opinion leaders who have the courage to proclaim a moral revival. In other words — inspiration, not espionage," he wrote.

Mr. Eaton, a financier, recently took it upon himself, as a private citizen, to explore international relations. He has played host to two international conferences at his home in Pugwash, N.S.

His dispute with the House committee began after he charged that the Government had almost as many "snoopers" as Nazi Germany. The committee chairman, Representative Francis E. Walter, said Mr. Eaton's statements were lending aid and comfort to the enemy and were detrimental to United States foreign policy.

•

"To me it is a source of amazement that there are still people who see the escape from . . . danger in the continued multiplication of the destructiveness and the speed of delivery of the major atomic weapons."

—George Kennan

## *the pic on the cover*

In this issue we honor another noted American liberal leader and reformer whose writings have been translated into numerous different languages and today are being read around the world. We join his millions of admirers in celebration of the 80th anniversary of Upton Sinclair.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW EDITOR

By ELDON SCHOLL

Our new Editor of the **American Rationalist**, Dr. Lowell H. Coate, is a native of the state of Ohio, and was born of Quaker parentage. At age 7 his family moved to a new community in Indiana where he com-



DR. LOWELL H. COATE

pleted his elementary and high school studies. He later attended Olivet College in Illinois where he was graduated in 1917 with the A.B. degree.

After teaching sociology and education courses at Olivet College for three years and serving as Dean of Marion College in Indiana for two years Dr. Coate went to California to pursue post-graduate courses in sociology and anthropology at the University of Southern California, where he did most of his graduate work while simultaneously teaching at neighboring Pasadena College. It was during this period that he experienced a complete liberation from religious orthodoxy. He has the usual academic degrees expected of educators, including the M.A. (Master of Arts) and Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy), plus the honorary degree of LL.D. (Doctor of Laws). He was also the founder and president of Pacific International University in Los Angeles, which enjoys the unique distinction of being the only University in the United States devoted entirely to Adult Education as such.

In addition to serving as a Supervisor in the Los

# THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST

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## YEAR TWO OF THE SPACE AGE

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Angeles Public School System during the past quarter century, prior to his recent retirement, Dr. Coate was called upon to serve in various civic capacities, having been president during the past 15 years of the Foreign Policy Council of Los Angeles, which was affiliated with the Foreign Policy Association with national headquarters in New York City. He was also appointed a special official delegate by the U.S. State Department in Washington to the UNESCO Conference in San Francisco in 1948, in which he personally participated.

Dr. Coate is author of a half-dozen books, the first of which was as co-author with the noted peace advocate and statesman, William Jennings Bryan, without of course sharing Mr. Bryan's religious orthodoxy. His active interest in international affairs took him on a special study tour, during his sabbatical leave in 1950, of several Latin American countries, where he was able to see and to photograph most of the known ruins of the ancient Mayan and Aztec civilizations, of which he has numerous good color slides. He considers this his most interesting hobby and enjoys sharing the pictures with his friends.

Dr. Coate is neither a stranger nor a newcomer to the Rationalist ranks. He was the first editor of the *Progressive World* magazine some ten years ago, was a founder of the old *Progressive World* Associates, and an active delegate at the founding Convention in Chicago in August, 1948, of the United Secularists of America. He organized the first Humanist Society in Los Angeles prior to the second World War. He also served as editor of "The Humanist World," "The Pacific Monthly," and the "Peace Digest." He assures us that he feels it indeed an honor to be invited to the Editorship of the **American Rationalist** and that he considers this assignment the most significant educational project of his eventful career. He will try to build a strong structure on the sound foundation which has already been laid by Mr. Hewson and his splendid staff associates. We gladly extend to Dr. Coate a warm welcome to his new position and we bespeak for him our united support and our hearty cooperation.

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## WE MAKE CHANGES

Since the first issue of THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST, our Editor, Arthur B. Hewson, has performed a commendable job with the heavy amount of work which has increased in the past two years. Now he has decided to step down as editor for a much needed rest. We have reluctantly accepted his decision. The response from his first several editorials really put our magazine over and it was enthusiastically accepted by the readers. The policy Mr. Hewson started was, as we have mentioned in our early issues, exactly what the Rationalist movement needed, a truly positive approach in a well printed magazine for the entire Rationalist movement. You may not have noticed that we made a slight change on our last two covers by changing one word. We are now "The" magazine for the entire Rationalist movement instead of "A" magazine.

Our new Editor is Dr. Lowell H. Coate. His introduction is in an accompanying article.

Another change for us is that we are now incorporated under the laws of the state of Missouri as a non-profit organization to promote the Rationalist way of life. We are now opening up membership in our organization to all those sincere Rationalists who want to add to our past effort to help build a real Rationalist organization. We prefer those who can contribute time, effort and finances toward a working force for Rationalism. We want the "activists" and not the "card-holding" membership. If you are interested in our organization, now called the Rationalist Association, write us and tell us about yourself. The organization is a democratic one formed from the "guarantors" of our magazine.

Edd Doerr has become an associate editor for The American Rationalist. He is a young man who writes well, as all AR readers know by now. He was born in Indianapolis in 1930 and, after surviving eleven years of brain-washing in Roman Catholic schools, graduated from Indiana University

## AN EDITORIAL

### The Rationalist Challenge

As the lines of this first editorial are being penned by your new Editor on the morning of September 20, 1958, we are still in Year One of the new Space Age. Year Two will begin on October 4, the first anniversary of the launching of the first earth satellite by the first great modern nation to renounce its ancient beliefs in orthodox religion. This significant event has both shocked and challenged the other nations which still cling to a fast-fading mirage of supernaturalism in this dawning of a new scientific age. All Rationalists and scientists can now proudly adopt a new calendar dating from this magnificent scientific world event instead of the dishonored calendar of the Popes which dates back to an uncertain mythical character in the mists of the dim and distant past before modern science was ever dreamed of and whose professed followers have been the most military nations in all history, who have brought more death, misery and destruction to the world than all others combined, and who even this day threaten to bring annihilation to the human race itself.

### We Must be Prepared for Change

We now live in a time of great and rapid change and we must be prepared to adjust readily and intelligently to these changes if we are to realize our greatest possibilities as a movement, or even to survive these kaleidoscopic events. It has been said that "the most permanent thing in the world is change," and in a sense this is true. The path of history is strewn with the corpses of thousands of organizations who, like the great dinosaurs of past ages, were unable to adjust to the mighty changes of their time. There can of course be no progress without change, yet a new idea involving change of any kind is about the most painful thing in the world. But it can be powerful.

It was the great Victor Hugo who once said that "the most powerful thing in the world is an idea whose time has come." If anyone is inclined to question that statement let him be reminded of the fact that within the brief period since the first World War more than half the peoples of Europe have abandoned their orthodox religion.

It is characteristic of religions that they collapse and disappear along with the passing of the political and economic systems which support them, as history so abundantly testifies. This was true of the ancient religions

of the old Egyptian empire, and later of the Babylonian kingdom, and more recently of pagan Greece and Rome. People simply decline to continue their allegiance and devotion to gods who seem to forsake them in their wars and times of greatest crisis and distress. It is this process which has occurred throughout much of Europe and Asia during and since our two recent World Wars, as a result of which many millions of their populations have suffered the untold agonies of defeat, humiliation and the depths of despair. They are therefore abandoning the orthodox gods who have so sadly "let them down."

These two major changes, the launching of the new scientific Space Age and the abandoning of orthodox religion by millions of the world's population, bring our entire Rationalist movement face to face with the most powerful challenge of our history. Are we equal to it? Are we prepared to meet this modern challenge?

Rationalists have every reason to be proud of their fine heritage, the leaders and heroes of their history, including such men as Voltaire of France, and in England such pioneers as Buckle, Bradlaugh, Foote, Symes, Huxley, and Thomas Paine whose hand was the first to pen the words, "United States of America." Among our own Founding Fathers were such brilliant statesmen as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and James Madison; and later such outstanding leaders and scientists as Abraham Lincoln, Elbert Hubbard, Mark Twain, Luther Burbank, Thomas A. Edison, Albert Einstein, Clarence Darrow, John Dewey, and Anton J. Carlson, former President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. And again more recently in England, H. G. Wells, Joseph McCabe, Chapman Cohen, George Bernard Shaw and, considered by many the world's greatest living philosopher, Lord Bertrand Russell.

And today such leaders as Hector Hawton, editor of **The Humanist**, G. H. Taylor, editor of **The Freethinker**, and H. J. Blackham, Ethical leader and author, are conducting a courageous and vigorous campaign for Rationalism in England. Among our American contemporary Rationalists and leaders of liberal thought are Dr. Corliss Lamont of Columbia University, Dr. Oliver L. Reiser of the University of Pittsburgh, Reid Bain of Miami University, Dr. A. Eustace Hayden of the University of Chicago (recently retired), Dr. Donald A. Piatt of the University of California, and Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, noted author and educator, to mention only a few. In our own Federation we have such excellent writers and authors as Dr. Ira D. Cardiff, Arthur G. Cromwell, Dr. William E. Zeuch, Dr. John J. Kessler, Edd Doerr, and James Hervey Johnson. This of course is only a very limited list, and not rigidly Rationalist, some being as well or better known as Humanists or Freethinkers, but all representing the

with majors in Education, Social Studies, Psychology and Sociology.

He has worked for several large corporations, and has been a teacher and social worker. Over 200 of his articles have been published and he is currently sending many "letters to the editor" of which a good many have been printed in newspapers all over the country. He believes that the most important task of the American Rationalist is to "lead the Rationalist-Humanist - Freethought movement to a position of influence and significance in contemporary American affairs. For too long a time have the traditional orthodoxies dominated the religious, educational and other scenes, to the detriment of the American way of life and the life of reason for all mankind."

He believes that a broad base for the movement is essential for the health and growth of the movement. Inbreeding has already done enough damage to the movement.

We welcome more new blood to the staff of AR.

—Eldon Scholl.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC POWER IN GOVERNMENT

by General Herbert C. Holdridge  
(Retired)

How do the Pope (a secular, political dictator), and his agents in the United States, manage so successfully to place Roman Catholics in high government positions, particularly so close to the President? For example, the late F.D.R.'s private secretary was a female Roman Catholic. Eisenhower's personal political spokesman is James C. Hagerty, one of the Pope's loyal and trusted sons. A Roman Catholic doctor, Francis M. Foster, dean of the Catholic Georgetown Medical School, was called to the bedside of President Eisenhower when the Chief Executive suffered his cerebral blood vessel spasm. (Quoted from the Catholic Register, Dec. 6, 1957). It is clear that the infiltration of so many Roman Catholics into the White House is accomplished by Catholic power-pressure, aided by treacherous non-Catholic government and civic leaders who swoon, genuflect, and grovel at the feet

of the Pope and his hierarchy in order to capture the Catholic vote. It is the avowed duty of all of the Pope's trusted agents to operate with the hierarchy and the Jesuits for the ascendancy of the "Bingo" Church power in the United States, as the following statement reveals: "The Roman Catholic is to wield his vote for the purpose of securing Catholic ascendancy in this country (USA). All legislation must be governed by the will of God, unerringly indicated by the Pope . . . and any opinions are to be forbidden by the secular arm under the authority of the Church (Pope) even to war and bloodshed" — (Father Hecker, Catholic World, July 1870.) — Note: Rome never changes!

#### THE VATICAN —

#### INSTRUMENT OF VIOLENCE

Is Eisenhower's life in danger through Jesuitical conspiracy? We think so. After several years of reading and studying the gory, criminal history of the "Bingo" Church of Rome and her army of murderous Jesuits, we believe that President Eisenhower's life isn't worth a blessed candle in Hell. Here are a few incidents which lead us to believe as we do.

President Lincoln was murdered by a devout Roman Catholic at the instigation of priests and Jesuits of Rome. The murderers of Presidents Garfield and McKinley were Roman Catholic. Do you recall the "mysterious" illness, finally resulting in the deaths of Presidents Wilson and Harding? They had been under the care of the same nurse, a Roman Catholic. The would-be killer who shot and wounded Theodore Roosevelt was a Roman Catholic. The bullet intended to kill F. D. Roosevelt missed him, killing the Mayor of Chicago, was fired by a Roman Catholic. Remember the shooting attack on the House of Representatives on March 2, 1954, in which five Congressmen were wounded? All of those would-be killers were Roman Catholics. And do you recall the attempted murder of Truman? The shot intended to kill him, but killed his guard instead, was fired by a Roman Catholic. The list is long in which Roman Catholics have

liberal viewpoint and interpretation of thought and life in our modern world. No movement in history ever had finer or better representatives and sponsors. Can we prove ourselves worthy of their powerful examples and leadership?

#### A Remarkable Challenge

Here is a remarkable challenge indeed: a wonderful opportunity for adventurous youth, for college students and for those who love to pioneer, for pioneering in the old sense of the "frontier days" has gone forever, but here are new intellectual frontiers which offer an unprecedented challenge worthy of the very finest courage, the greatest endeavor, the keenest intelligence, the strongest character, the most consuming ambition and the highest type of human service. Rationalists enjoy a justifiable pride and a certain sense of destiny in having an active and personal part in this great scientific program. Those who are participating in it feel that they are sharing in an important movement that is destined to make significant history, and that they are the actors in this great drama of building a new and better world, based on Reason.

This is greater than the challenge of Freedom, for which more wars have been fought than for any other one thing, for Rationalism is more than Freedom. It is greater than the challenge of Democracy, for which two world wars ostensibly have been fought, for Rationalism is more than Democracy. It is even greater than the challenge of Peace, which is the ultimate goal of all wars, for Rationalism is more than Peace. Any Peace, even world peace, on any other basis than equal freedom and economic justice, is merely a truce between two wars. Rationalism is therefore more than any one of these fine ideals, for it includes all of them. A thousand wars have been fought during the past ten thousand years for the achievement of these human goals, but Rationalism and its peaceful program of Education gives promise of them all. No greater challenge of any kind has ever come to human beings at any time. It heralds the dawning of a new day and the coming of a new age, as visioned by one of the world's greatest Rationalists, and perhaps the greatest master of the English language that America has ever produced, our own Robert G. Ingersoll:

#### A Vision of the Future

"A vision of the future arises . . .

"I see a world without a slave. Man at last is free. Nature's forces have by science been enslaved. Lightning

and light, wind and wave, frost and flame, and all the secret subtle powers of the earth and air are tireless toilers for the human race.

"I see a world at peace, adorned with every form of art, with music's myriad voices thrilled, while lips are rich with words of love and truth; a world in which no exile sighs, no prisoner mourns; a world on which the gibbitt's shadow does not fall; a world where labor reaps its full reward, where work and worth go hand in hand, where the poor girl, trying to win bread with a needle . . . is not driven to the desperate choice of crime or death, of suicide or shame.

"I see a world without the beggar's outstretched palm, the miser's heartless, stony stare, the piteous wail of want, the livid lips of lies, the cruel eyes of scorn.

"I see a race without disease of flesh or brain—shapely and fair, married harmony of form and function, and as I look, life lengthens, joy deepens, love canopies the earth; and over all in the great dome shines the eternal star of human hope."

*Lowell H. Coate*

## Mr. Hewson Commends His Successor

After two and one half years of endeavor to establish THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST as the authentic Voice of Rationalism—with the loyal support of my associates—I find it necessary to relinquish the editorship.

A steadily mounting world-wide correspondence has developed to a point where it can no longer be dealt with properly as a spare time activity added to the demands of my full time position.

I commend to you my successor, Lowell H. Coate, Ph.D., retired Supervisor of Los Angeles Public Schools and more recently President of Sierra States University of Los Angeles. He has long been involved in Rationalist and Humanist activities, particularly on the West Coast.

I am quite sure you will enjoy Dr. Coate and that he will build well on the foundations already laid. I know you will be as generous in your commendations of him as you have been with me, for which, many thanks. You will hear from me from time to time.

Fraternally yours,

ARTHUR B. HEWSON

been involved in the murder and attempted murder of government officials. It is always the same in every country on earth where the Vatican's army of Jesuits are permitted to operate. It will ever be thus in the United States until the Vatican and its agents succeed in filling the government with their Catholic-Fascist agents, from the President down to the guards at the White House gates. The latter will be replaced by the Vatican Swiss guards. And with an American Pope at the Vatican to succeed Pius XII (or located in the District of Columbia at Catholic University), the United States, indeed the whole of North and South America, would be under the absolute control of the Vatican. The importation of Roman Catholic "gun slingers" from Hungary into the United States was no accident. The Vatican, with its back to the wall, is playing for big stakes. Listless, sleep-walking, un—"protesting" Americans will, of course, get exactly what they deserve, but we who fight for our freedoms under the Constitution have the duty to use all power at our command to check this great conspiracy which goes forward even within the White House under the mesmerized Eisenhower.

## IT ONLY TAKES ONE

by Dave Shipper

I was very interested to read in The American Rationalist that there are some "individuals who are working to form organizations in America." As one who had something to do with the formation of the youngest branch of the National Secular Society — the "Wales and Western", perhaps the story of our endeavors and their eventual success, may prove encouraging to American friends, who may not be so isolated as they possibly imagine.

First of all, I must stress the fact that I was a real novice in the work of organization, being a new member of the N.S.S., joining in January, 1956.

Wales is noted for its strong sabbatarianism (the "Welsh Sunday") and there had been no free-thought activity in Branch form for many years. Cardiff, the capi-

tal of Wales, and my home, has a 300,000 population, so there seemed ample scope for the development of Branch activity.

Our General Secretary in London, Colin McCall, gave me the address of a fellow freethinker, Martin Caines, who lives only a few minutes walk from me. Contacting him, I found a real "Gesinnungs-freund" (like-minded friend) as my German friends say. Martin Gaines is a negro, originally from British Guiana, one of nature's gentlemen and now the popular President of our Wales and Western Branch.

He possessed a list of some seven or eight names, all residing in the Cardiff district, and bearing in mind that only seven mem-

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP**  
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4. — 5. Does not apply.

ELDON SCHOLL,  
Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of October, 1958.  
(Seal) Robert H. Blanke

My commission expires  
July 2, 1961.

## RATIONALISM AND ITS PROBLEMS

Summary of a public lecture by James Hervey Johnson, May 12, 1958, at San Diego, Calif.

Rationalism is the use of reason in all things, particularly in the matter of religious beliefs.

Rationalists do not accept doctrines or dogmas by religious leaders as truth. Because a priest or preacher says a book like the Bible or the Koran or some other so-called sacred book is the word of God, is not proof that it is. Because a priest says that there is a god does not make it so, and we don't believe it.

We are told by the clergy that there is a God or gods, heaven and hell, a future life, angels, a devil and that the Pope or other religious leaders are the representatives of the Christian god. They offer no proof. We can't see or hear the gods, and when we say we won't take the words of the priests that there are gods they offer the so-called Sacred books as proof. But the sacred books are not proof. As a matter of fact they are no more than the writings of ignorant, superstitious men who used stone axes and ox carts and thought the world was flat.

We are then asked, "Who made the stars and the sun? It must have been a God." The stars and the sun we are told are proof of God. But the rationalist says the sun is no proof of anything but the sun. You can't prove one thing by pointing to another. If there is a God let him come forth and show himself, then there will be no question about it.

The religionist says that practically all men believe in God and a future life and that shows that there is something within men that proves there is a God. But that is no proof, for when all the people on earth believed the world was flat, one man, Galileo, said it was round. He had been able to look at the planets through a rude telescope and saw that they were round, and he said the earth is not the center of the universe. The Catholic church said he was going against their doctrines and they put him in prison and made him get down on his knees and recant, to save his life. But the "Infallible" Church was wrong and so were all the other people. Because a lot of people believe something and a few believe otherwise, doesn't make true what the masses believe. Another example was Bruno, who was burned at the stake because he said the world was round and that there were other worlds than this. Like Galileo, he was right, and the Church and all its believers were

wrong. Rationalists do not accept the doctrine that because most people believe a thing makes it so—in fact, we often question a universal belief because it is held by the masses.

The reason people believe so many false doctrines is because they are brainstuffed when their minds are immature and they are unable to reason. They look to their parents for guidance, food, warmth and shelter, and they accept the teachings their parents give them, without question. They only hear one side, and after being stuffed with religious doctrine for all of their young lives it is hard for them to change. The impressions given them are recorded on the brain tissue which is easily moulded when they are young, and is hard to change when they are mature.

And then, all men, for all their lives are bombarded with religious propaganda, from the pulpit, in the schools, over the radio, on TV, in the movies, in the press and magazines, from the politicians; public meetings are opened by prayer and our lives are saturated with it, day and night. The Great Lie technique of repeating a lie over and over until it is believed, is used. But rationalists reject the idea that constant repetition of a falsehood ever makes it true.

Rationalists say that if there is a God, or afterlife, science will have the answer. Scientists do not ask us to take their findings on faith. Faith is nothing but the belief in something that cannot be proven. An honest man does not ask us to believe something that cannot be proven.

Scientists are glad to offer proof. They can tell you just when the tides will be high and when low. They can tell you when such comets as Haley's Comet will return so they can be seen, within a few minutes of the 70 years when the comet returns in its orbit. They can split the atom and tell how to make hydrogen bombs. They can see a billion light years into space. They can tell you how to mix certain chemicals and obtain all kinds of useful compounds. They have never offered the slightest evidence of a god or heaven. Certainly their advice is better than the ignorant superstitions of our stone age ancestors. You can look on the walls of the great canyons like the Grand Canyon and see the records of the evolution of life in the fossils, with the higher forms high on the cliffs and the low forms at the bottom of the canyon. I myself have seen the bones of the dinosaurs in the solid rock in Dinosaur Park in Utah. They do not ask us to take these things on faith.

The truth is that it means money in the pockets of the religious promoters, and power and easy living, for

bers were needed to form a new branch, I set out to visit them all personally.

All those I was able to see proved enthusiastic and it was evident that the only thing missing was one person to start the ball rolling. (Take not, you "individuals").

By now I had conceived the idea of a "Wales and Western" Branch based on Cardiff and Bristol (50 miles away, across the Bristol Channel in England) which could, for the time being, embrace all the "Parent Branch" members in both areas and probably, eventually split into two branches. — In Bristol, a city of 400,000 inhabitants, we had three members. All these expressed their willingness to support a "W&W" Branch. Next on my list was Newport, Monmouthshire, twelve miles from Cardiff. This town of 100,000 had three members, all when approached, enthusiastic. Finally a trip into the mountainous Welsh valleys to visit members in Pontymister and Abertillery, 20 and 30 miles from Cardiff respectively and a meeting was called on August 14, 1956.

About half of the members received their first visit from a fellow Freethinker when I paid an unexpected call and our Branch is now functioning sweetly, with a full winter program.

Although our members are so widely scattered, we always have a good attendance at the monthly meetings and are already receiving new enquiries.

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them to perpetuate the superstitions of the stone age. They make people believe that they have some special pull with their mythical God—but we don't believe they have either a God or any pull. We do know that they are always figuring some scheme to get more money out of the people. They get tax exemption for their vast incomes, running into the billions of dollars, tax exemption on their billions of dollars worth of property, exemption from military duty, half fare on the railroads and lots of other special privileges. That is why they keep stuffing the brains of children with their nonsense, and keep peddling their great lies day and night and saturating our lives with them.

Do you know that hundreds of thousands of innocent old men, women, and even children were murdered and tortured because of the Biblical commandment "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." Even in America 19 people were hanged by Protestant fanatics. Nowadays no intelligent person believes in witches. But it was not long ago that a mob led by a Catholic priest burned a woman as a witch in Mexico. Can Rationalists have faith in such ignorant superstitious doctrines as this?

We do not find any evidence that the priests and preachers are any more intelligent than scientists and rationalists and we see no reason whatever to swallow the superstition they preach—for a fat profit.

\* \* \*

The meeting was then opened for questions. A Jehovah's Witness said, "Don't you think that the orderly operation of the universe, and the growth of trees and flowers, shows that there is a guiding Intelligence behind the Universe?"

The answer: When I see innocent children struck down with polio, see them drowned, killed by automobiles, and when I see the terrible suffering of men and women from cancer and syphilis, and see them struck with paralysis, and see the good people robbed and murdered and beaten, and know how people suffer from floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves, and when I know how one kind of animal eats another, cruelly tearing them to pieces, I can't imagine a Supreme Intelligence ordering such things. Why did a Supreme Intelligence have to create mosquitoes, rattlesnakes, fleas and lice? Is there any sense in putting Mars and Mercury so close to the Sun that humans would boil, while Neptune is so far away that they would freeze. What good is there in making such useless planets? Why create a world with so much suffering? I don't see any supreme intelligence there. If there were any such power we would have to call it The Supreme Stupidity!

## AR INTERNATIONAL PEN-PALS CLUB

MR. H. J. KOEHORST of Krugerstraat 9 III, Amsterdam (Oost) Holland, wishes the Club great success and asks for correspondents. A *De Vrijdenker* (Holland) reader, he works in the insurance business, is aged 25 and his hobbies are athletics and reading. A student of philosophy, he is a great admirer of Bertrand Russell. He writes good English, German, Dutch and a little French. Wees zo goed mij te doen weten indien u vind een paar vrienden!

Belgium freethought monthly *De Vrijdenker* reprinted the Pen Pals feature from the May AR in their July issue — Dank u, qij aijn zeer dankbaar!

Mr. F. P. JANSEN of Overleek 18, Monickendam, Holland, is the first Esperantist to join the Club. "Esperanto is the Latin of Democracy," he says, in a letter written in good English. He prefers to correspond in Esperanto with overseas readers. Dankon por via letero mia amiko!

By the way, there are Esperanto freethought organizations in Britain, France and in West Germany (the latter two publish *La Liberpen-sulo* "The Freethinker") and *Nia Libero Opinio* "Our Free Opinion" respectively. Readers wanting information may drop me a line.

JOE MARK, 4924 E. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A., tells me he is 65 years old, has been in the U.S.A. since 1910, a freethinker for 45 years and is a member of the Arizona Secularists. His special interest is philately which he took up and recommends as a "sort of occupational therapy" and he would like to trade stamps with individuals and freethought groups (not for profit). Originally from Austria, he will correspond in German or English.

The *Equalitarian Bulletin* mentions our Club in their June issue "out of Britain" section (edited by the late freethought poet C. E. Ratcliffe, who recently celebrated his 98th birthday). A sample of EB may be obtained from W. T. Nee, 3206 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 19, Calif.

ROBERT HUDON of P.O. Box 722, Val D'Or, Quebec Province, Canada, would like to hear from Canadians interested in freethought activity. Languages French or English.

Mr. WU HSUEH-KUN, P.O. Box 19, Kaohsiung in Taiwan (Free China), an active Rationalist, would be grateful for any English language Rationalist magazines.

Ex-Catholic, Rationalist MALCOLM PERERIA,

c/o E. John Thompson, White & Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 76, Colombo, Ceylon, asks for correspondents in English. He is a friend of Aylmer Peries, another Club member.

Mrs. MARJORIE ROGERSON, Severn View, Lloyds Road, off Wesley Rd., Ironbridge, Salop, England, would like to hear from overseas friends. Her husband is already a Club member.

NOEL B. PRATT, Apartado 5, Buenaventura, Chihuahua, Mexico, is an American, 28 years old, is fluent in Spanish. He would appreciate any correspondence.

We have a friendly arrangement with *The Humanist* of London to publish names appearing in each other's journals. The August *Humanist* lists over 20 members of the AR Pen Pal Club and adds the following three names of those desiring correspondents: Mrs. E. C. GILBERT, 67 Crow Hill South, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester, England. — P. WARD, 28 Parkfield Crescent, North Harrow, Middlesex, England. — PHILIP WOOD, "Lindow", Five Oaks Lane, Chigwell Row, Essex, England.

A. AVENAL, P.O. Box 996, Jerusalem, Israel, is a member of the Israeli League Against Religious Compulsion and would welcome correspondence in English, Esperanto or Hebrew. Our first Israeli Club member, he should have plenty of news for correspondents. Ask him about the Neturel Karta, the orthodox Jewish fanatics who refuse to recognize the State of Israel. They say the state must not be set up before the return of the messiah!

*The Freethinker* (London) published a first list of 22 names of Club members in a recent issue. Anyone wanting a sample of our British weekly write to 41 Gray's Road, London, W.C. 1, England.

ERMINO CANALI of Corso A. Saffi Nr. 8, Genova, Italy, is secretary of the Geno branch of the Italian Freethinkers and sends best wishes to our club which he now joins. He does not specify languages, but wrote to me in Italian. Grazie Tanto, amico.

Italian freethought journal *La Ragione* (July) gave our club a generous spread in a piece headed "Dave Shipper — e il club internazionale Razionalista" and had some very generous things to say about AR, Mr. Hewson and me. Your collaboration is noted and appreciated "La Ragione," grazie e Cordiali Saluti.

Another new Italian club member is RINA PFENNINGER, Corso Alessandro Destefanis 9/32, Genova, Italy. The language for correspondence is again unspecified, but my letter came in Italian. Arrivederci, Rina!

# IF MAN IS TO SURVIVE

By BERTRAND RUSSELL

**Editors Note:** The world is entitled to know the attitude of our great Rationalist leaders on the important issues which confront our common human race from time to time. Here is an important message from one of our recognized Rationalist leaders in an hour of serious international crisis involving the survival of the human race itself.

The world at present is rushing towards disaster. At present it seems an even chance whether any human beings exist forty years hence. If man is to survive, the trend must be reversed. A number of measures will be necessary, some fairly easy, others very difficult. I will take the easiest measures first.

## Nuclear Tests Must Be Stopped

The harm that is being done by tests is not generally realized, especially as it is cumulative. Sea and rain, in most parts of the world, have become radio-active in varying degrees. And unfortunately animals and plants concentrate the radio-active material and become much more infected than the water and soil upon which they depend. The U. S. Navy, in the neighborhood of Bikini, found that some clams which they had examined were 2,000 times as radioactive as the water in which they lived. The most dangerous substance resulting from nuclear tests is Strontium 90, which is an artificial substance owing its existence wholly to nuclear explosions. It is now found in all parts of the world. It attacks bones especially and causes cancer; other products of the tests cause mutations of genes which are almost always harmful. The British Atomic Scientists' Association calculates that tests carried out until 1957 may cause some 50,000 bone cancers. How many mental defectives they will cause to be born, it is as yet impossible to guess. If you give one man cancer or cause one child to be born an idiot, you are a monster; but if you do the same injury to 50,000 you are a patriot. It is odd that the same Governments which promote expensive research to combat cancer, also employ still more expensive meth-

ods of increasing it. Although Great Britain is far removed from all the places where tests have taken place, Strontium 90, in continually increasing quantities, has been found in this country in grass and milk. Each test increases this amount. The tests, if continued, will kill all fish, make meat and milk poisonous, and cause genetic damage which will continue through thousands of years if the race survives. It is politically easy to stop the tests, because they cannot be concealed. Dr. Teller, an atomic physicist in the employ of the American Government, maintains that tests can be concealed, but, so far as I have been able to discover, this opinion is not shared by any experts not in Government pay. I believe it completely possible to stop the tests by agreement. If agreement should not prove possible, Great Britain alone should abandon tests. It is intolerable that our country should be an accomplice in this vast atrocity.

## The Danger of a Great War by Accident Must Be Avoided

As we have lately learned, planes carrying H-bombs are continually flying over Great Britain. The Prime Minister has assured us that this involves no new danger since, if the planes crash, the bombs will not explode. This, though perhaps literally true, is a misleading statement. The New Scientist, on January 2nd, pointed out that the bombs carry Plutonium which, even in the absence of a full explosion, would cause very grave damage. It is a highly poisonous substance of which 0.6 millionth of a gram is considered the largest permissible dose. Like Strontium, it seeks bones. As its half-life is 24,000 years, its escape would mean that a large area would have to be evacuated for a long time, and all cattle and vegetables in the area would have to be destroyed. This, however, is not the gravest danger due to planes carrying H-bombs. A much graver danger is that of accidents mistakenly attributed to enemy action, which might easily precipitate a great war that no one has intended. This is the more likely since it is generally assumed that a war would begin with the destruction of capital

cities and would have to be carried on without orders from the central Government. Such great military advantages attach to a surprise attack that each side expects the enemy to resort to it. This inevitably produces a state of nerves of which the disastrous consequences are immeasurable. Great Britain ought, not only for the good of the world, but even on the narrowest grounds of national interests, to refuse missile bases on its territory. The Defense Minister stated that frankly, in the event of war, the Government could not protect the population, but only missile stations and aeroplane bases. Since it is these that would cause the motive for attack, it is clear that we are safer without them.

#### **The Spread of H-bombs Must Be Stopped**

Caligula wished that he could exterminate all his enemies with one blow. He was thought mad. There are now three Caligulas in the world — Great Britain, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., who actually possess the power that Caligula desired, but, owing to modern progress, they are not thought mad. There is a near and imminent prospect that other countries will soon possess H-bombs. France and Germany want them. We must suppose that China will soon think them necessary. Can we doubt that Egypt and Israel will demand "the great deterrent"?

Unless measures are taken very soon, every Sovereign State will soon possess H-bombs. This will enormously increase the likelihood of the Great Powers being drawn into war against their will. It is both our duty and our interest to prevent the acquisition of H-bombs by Powers which do not yet possess them. For this reason, if for no other, Great Britain ought to renounce H-bombs and do everything in its power to cause Russia and America to prevent their acquisition by any State which does not yet have them. It would not be at all difficult for Russia and America, if they were in agreement, to secure this result, and such co-operation might be the beginning of better relations.

#### **Nuclear Weapons Must Be Abandoned Everywhere**

The talk of the "great deterrent" is plain nonsense. Those who use this argument always go on to say that of course it will not be necessary actually to employ the deterrent. But, if this were really believed, it is obvious that each side would be willing to agree to its abolition. It is, in fact, a futile weapon, since it will destroy those who use it as well as those against whom it is used. There should be an agreement to destroy all stocks of nuclear weapons and to submit to neutral inspection to make sure that the agreement is observed.

#### **Negotiations for a Detente Should Be Entered Into**

All negotiations in recent years have been more or less insincere. The aim on each side has not been to reach agreement, but to make proposals which are good for propaganda purposes but involve concealed advantages for one's own side. What is needed is a new direction on both sides and a determination, not only to make proposals, but to find compromises which give no net advantage to either side. We are constantly told that there is a risk in negotiating with the Soviet Government. But those who say this overlook the risk involved in not negotiating. The risk involved in not negotiating is the extermination of the human race. This, surely, is a greater risk than that of some diplomatic advantage to one side or the other. We must hope that this will become obvious both to Russia and to the United States. Each side should abandon abuse of the other side. We are all sinners. No Great Power has the right to cast the first stone. What is needed on both sides is emphasis on our common interest in human survival rather than upon the matters in which our interests are supposed to differ. Whether we wish it or not, the only road to the welfare of each is the welfare of all.

Kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve. (Joubert).

# TO MAKE AMERICA CATHOLIC

by EDD DOERR

To "make America Catholic" is the avowed aim of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, an international political-religious organization which is probably the most successful and enduring dictatorship ever to have blackened the pages of history. But if our fears are realized, what would a "Catholic America" be like? As Paul Blanshard and numerous other writers have pointed out in carefully documented detail, a Catholic America would be a blighted land lacking in the freedoms, liberties and amenities which we have unfortunately come to take for granted. More specifically, if the Catholic Church would ever come to dominate our country, we could expect to see our marriage and divorce laws mutilated, our planned parenthood programs scuttled, our welfare organizations emasculated and operated for purely sectarian purposes, our freedom to read and write and see whatever we please drastically interfered with, our public schools weakened and possibly destroyed, our tax-supported universities dominated by the most anti-intellectual and least democratic elements of the population, the lives of American wives endangered by medieval Catholic medical codes, our religious and intellectual freedom gradually reduced to a mere frightened shadow. A Catholic America, in short, would no longer be the same free America that we love and cherish.

But is the threat of Catholic domination any more than a mere figment of the imagination? In this article I propose to show that the danger is not only very real, but also quite possibly imminent. We must never forget that throughout history nearly all despotisms were imposed by small minorities, and that in contemporary America the Catholic Church just happens to be our largest, most well organized and most powerful "minority."

## The Catholic Threat is Imminent

First, I would like to deal with what is possibly the most obvious, direct and imminent threat to our free secular democratic way of life, as imperfect as it may be, namely: the possible accession to our nation's highest and most powerful office of a member of the Roman Catholic faith. According to the opinion polls, there is a strong possibility that the Democratic Party's 1960 candidate for the presidency will be a Catholic, Massachusetts' Senator John F. Kennedy, who has made no secret of his ambitions and who is preparing for a vigorous dash for the White House. Of course, a Catholic has just as much right to be President as a Baptist, a Humanist, a Methodist or a Jew, but far more is at issue here than just one man's personal qualifications, as we shall soon see.

At this point someone is sure to ask, how can the election of one man, a Catholic, to the office of President bring about such dire consequences as those cited in the first paragraph? And is not the preceding merely an exaggeration and an example of anti-Catholic bigotry? To answer the second question first, certainly not. Elections in a democracy are very serious and important exercises of the people's right to govern themselves, and this right should be exercised in such a way as to preserve and enhance the interests and liberties of the people. If the consequences of the election of Mr. Kennedy, or any other person, Catholic or non-Catholic, to our highest office would be such as to greatly weaken or imperil our most cherished ideals and freedoms, then, plainly, it would be the height of folly to put that person into the White House. Further, although I believe that Mr. Kennedy's religious beliefs are absurd and completely out of tune with all modern knowledge, I would not hesitate to defend his right to hold his beliefs. I object only to his using a high office (or being used), wittingly or otherwise, to force his beliefs upon the rest of the population. My attitude certainly cannot be classed as bigotry.

As for the question, how can the mere election of a Catholic to the presidency pro-

duce the dire consequences hinted at earlier, the answer is at once simple and yet complicated. First, the election of a Catholic to the presidency would be of tremendous propaganda value to the Catholic hierarchy, who would squeeze out of it every possible drop of "public relations" value. Secondly, the answer may be found in an examination of the powers of the President, which are memorized by every schoolboy but which are undoubtedly soon forgotten. The President has executive, legislative and judicial powers, which render him the most powerful single man in the country. At this juncture, I might add that although a Catholic President might have only the best interests of the country at heart, yet he would not be entirely a free agent, though this statement applies to virtually all politicians. A Catholic President would have various and sundry "obligations," to party members, to influential backers and, last but not least, to the Church which would be at once backing him to the hilt and pressuring him in numerous ways for "favors." But let us briefly examine the President's powers, to see how they could be used to "make America Catholic."

In the judicial realm, the President has the important power of appointment. The President appoints all federal judges, from the Justices of the Supreme Court on down, subject only to the formality of Senate approval. A Catholic President could be expected to name Catholic judges or others not unfriendly to Catholic aims and policies. The possible consequences of this judicial power in the hands of a Catholic President are obvious. Court decisions upholding our wall of complete and absolute separation of church and state would probably become fewer and fewer and significant decisions favoring Catholic aims would surely be forthcoming. Under a Catholic President, the weird clericalist legal views of persons such as Clarence Manion would probably come into the ascendancy.

In the legislative sphere, the President is in an advantageous position for the introduction of legislation and holds the veto power over any legislation of which he

should happen to disapprove. A Catholic President could not be counted on to oppose any legislation favoring handouts to Catholic schools, universities and hospitals, and would in all likelihood veto any bill which called for federal aid to public schools which left out parochial schools. Under a Catholic President, various laws favoring Catholic aims would have greatly improved chances for passage.

In the executive field, the President's powers are extremely broad and significant. In foreign affairs, a Catholic President could be expected to support such Catholic dictators as Franco and Salazar, to side with the Vatican State frequently in matters of propagandal or substantive import, to block birth control programs in the United Nations, and to carry on the absurd foreign policies which have already wreaked so much damage on American prestige and the aspirations of peoples in underdeveloped areas.

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The President's powers to conclude "executive agreements" (which have the force of treaties and do not require Senate approval) and to shape foreign policy could substantially damage the best interests and traditions of our country.

In internal affairs, the Chief Executive's appointive powers could easily be used to saddle our nation with a host of Catholic and/or pro-Catholic bureaucrats whose activities could weaken or destroy a great many of our complicated technical rights and liberties. Presidential appointments could result in effective Catholic control of such key executive departments and bureaus as the Internal Revenue Bureau, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Post Office Department, the Economic Cooperation Administration, the Export - Import Bank, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Science Foundation, the Displaced Persons Commission and the Veterans Administration. Catholic control of these and other powerful executive agencies of our government could result in a disastrous Catholic control of the entire machinery of government.

The picture I have painted of the possible consequences of the election of a Catholic President, such as Senator Kennedy, is not a very pretty one to Americans who regard their country as the world's most important stronghold and fountain of freedom and democracy. But it is a picture which must remain ever before the eyes of every American who wishes to preserve and even improve our democratic way of life.

#### **Catholics Infiltrate Our Democratic Institutions**

Democracy, it must be remembered, can be subverted and destroyed by "constitutional, legal, democratic" means, but we must not let it happen. And in our efforts to keep our country truly free, we must not in any way discriminate against Catholic citizens or Catholic politicians. But this sense of justice must not blind us to the facts, and the facts lead us unavoidably to the conclusion that the election of a Catholic to the

presidency would be an extremely dangerous thing. Regardless of the personal qualifications of any Catholic presidential aspirant, until the Catholic Church changes its totalitarian-authoritarian character and repudiates forever its vast despotic ambitions, it would be best for American freedom and democracy (which are already under attack from numerous Catholic and non-Catholic quarters) if the White House would continue to be occupied only by non-Catholics dedicated without reservation to the preservation of the ideals and innate rights which have made our nation great.

But even if all Catholic aspirants are kept out of the White House for the time being, the danger is not one whit less. It is a cold hard fact that the Catholic portion of our population is breeding faster than any other. Thus, in a few years a minority could develop into a substantial majority. But this is only part of the threat. Catholic efforts to control every facet of American life are not to be lightly dismissed.

The fear of incurring the wrath of the "Catholic vote" is ever present in the mind of nearly every politician and public official. The effectiveness of the "vote bloc" club has been demonstrated by the success of various minority groups of this country. Catholic demonstrations have been especially impressive. Few legislators, judges or administrative officials care to antagonize the Catholic hierarchy for fear of political reprisals. Those legislators and other officials who refuse to be intimidated are to be warmly commended and encouraged.

On other fronts, Catholic censorship groups have enjoyed a certain amount of success in suppressing books, textbooks and movies. Catholic pressure groups have played an important and weighty role in rendering television, radio and newspapers and magazines intellectually sterile. Misleading and untruthful advertisements sponsored by the Knights of Columbus attract converts and promote "good will" toward Catholicism among the unwary. Catholic "public relations" experts are busy lulling Americans to sleep and subtly brainwashing them to make them more pliable. Catholic schools

and universities are grinding out hundreds of thousands of generally unthinking dupes, which is not to imply that many non-Catholic institutions are not doing the same. I have in my possession a fund-raising letter, written and distributed by a Catholic pastor in Indianapolis, which boasts of the pastor's success in luring non-Catholic pupils into his parochial school for almost certain "conversion." Catholics have been infiltrating (that is, in excess of their normal 20% of the population) public school staffs, school boards, welfare agencies and government agencies (such as the Post Office Department and the F.B.I.) for purposes which are inconsistent with the best interests of our democratic way of life. These infiltration techniques are actually being taught by Father James Keller of the Christopher Movement, whose book "You Can Change The World" might be appropriately subtitled "Plan for Conquest." But I can only hint at the dangers which face us in the limited space available. The reader is urged to consult the books of authors such as Paul Blanshard and the publications of various Rationalist, Humanist, Freethought and other organizations for more particulars.

### What To Do About It

Most of us who call ourselves religious liberals, Humanists or Rationalists will agree with all of the foregoing. But a great many of us are rather at a loss to know what to do about the situation. Actually, there is a great deal that we can do, although we must remember that our own relatively meager numbers, to be effective, must be united with all other Americans, whether Protestants or Jews or unaffiliated persons, who are in agreement with the notion that freedom is our most precious possession and must be guarded with every last bit of energy at our command. In this connection, active cooperation with all non-Catholics must be sought. Organizations such as POAU (Protestants and Other Americans United For Separation of Church and State) must be given our full support. The facts and possibilities must be brought before church organizations, lodges, civic groups,

social clubs, political groups. These things must be done whether or not the vast efforts in behalf of the "Kennedy for President" movement are successful. Books such as Paul Blanshard's "American Freedom and Catholic Power" (1958 edition) must be placed in libraries and in the hands of every individual in a position to influence public opinion, such as ministers, rabbis, journalists, writers, politicians, and business and labor leaders. Then, too, our efforts to avert the dangers cited in this article must remain on a fair, dignified, unbiased, democratic plane. We must never fail to distinguish between the rights of Catholic citizens to hold their particular religious beliefs and to hold public office, and the schemes of the Catholic hierarchy to "make America Catholic" through one means or another.

Of course, it would be a foolish oversimplification to say that the threat of Catholic domination is the only problem facing our country. There are other groups whose aims and activities do not coincide with our nation's best interests. There is the threat posed by international Communism. There are problems stemming from resource depletion, unchecked population growth and the difficulties of maintaining so large a country on a firm democratic footing. But the threat which is at once the most serious and one of the most neglected is that of Catholic domination. We must face it squarely and not rest until it is averted for all time.

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**2218 St. Louis Ave. St. Louis 6, Mo.**

## A New Book by Russell

by Ira D. Cardiff

BERTRAND RUSSELL: "The fundamental defect of Christian ethics consists in the fact that it labels certain classes of acts 'sins' and others 'virtues' on grounds that have nothing to do with their social consequences."

JOHN DEWEY: "There is not, I think, an instance of any large idea about the world being independently generated by religion."

BENEDETTO GROCE: "Philosophy removes from religion all reason for existing."

GEORGE SANTAYANA: "Christianity persecuted, tortured and burned. Like a hound it tracked the very scent of heresy. It kindled wars, and nursed furious hatreds and ambitions."

"Scepticism is the chastity of the intellect."

"Mankind is only too prone to trust inspiration, naively in prosperity and desperately in disaster."

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD: "History, down to the present day, is a melancholy record of the horrors which can attend religion; human sacrifice, and in particular the slaughter of children, cannibalism, sensual orgies, abject superstition, hatred as between races, the maintenance of degrading customs, hysteria, bigotry, can all be laid at its charge. Religion is the last refuge of human savagery. The uncritical association of religion with goodness is directly negated by plain facts."

H. G. WELLS: "The greatest evil in the world today is the Catholic church."

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: "I loathe the mess of mean superstitions and misunderstood prophecies which is still rammed down the throats of children under the name of Christianity."

—o—

The above quotations from the top five twentieth-century philosophers — by many conceded the leading five — together with the opinions of two of the century's influential writers, would lead one to think that an opinion of the leading religious cult of the western world by the sole survivor and probably the foremost of the group of great philosophers should be well worth reading. In fact, it might merit a review by a colleague of philosophy. Furthermore, Bertrand Russell is not only a leader in philosophy, but a great scholar in the field of mathematics, in science and history, and probably one of the most widely read of twentieth-century scholars in these fields of thought. He also has lectured frequently in many countries and is highly regarded and respected in the intellectual world,

probably without a peer in this respect. The New York Times, which has a very high opinion of itself, turns the review of Russell's latest book over to an American cleric. The following quotation is from the Times review:

"WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN: And Other Essays on Religion and Related Subjects" by Bertrand Russell. Edited by Paul Edwards. 266 pp. New York: Simon & Schuster. \$3.50.

by REINHOLD NIEBUHR

"The critical attitude of the renowned English philosopher Bertrand Russell toward all religion is well known. Paul Edwards has collected a number of his essays on religion published over a period of years since the end of the last century. In his introduction he suggests that Russell's rigorous criticisms of the world's religions, which that philosopher regards as both 'harmful and untrue,' are necessary to counter the uncritical revival of religious faith, particularly in this country.

"Russell is a very great philosopher, though it may be questioned whether he is at his best in dealing with the complex and tragic affairs of human history. He brings to his subject a cool irony, in which the common sense and nonsense are curiously compounded. Or rather the common sense sometimes turns to nonsense when he counters a religious absurdity with an absurdity of his own, setting against religious obscurantism his own brand of sophisticated naivete.

"Some of the essays are devoted to the thesis that religion is untrue. By this Russell means that the primary theses of religious faith, namely the 'existence of God and the immortality of the soul,' cannot be proved. He acknowledges that not many Christians since Kant have held to the possibility of the rational proof of God's existence, but he does not deal at all with the problem that belief in God implies belief in a power, the creative power underlying all historic existence, which is in a sense beyond the comprehension of reason as it is beyond the realm of actual existence. In short, he does not deal with the mystery of creation."

It will be noted that Mr. Niebuhr regards Russell "a very great philosopher," however, not equal to evaluating "the complex and tragic affairs of human history": in other words, the latter requires the objective and discerning analysis of a partisan propagandist from the world's most fanatical religion. Kindly re-read the last paragraph above quoted from Reverend Niebuhr. Note the source of "creative power." This enormous creative power, naturally the greatest single entity in the universe, exists and moves and has its being because of man's belief in God. Now, don't be so critical as to ask how the creator of man could ante-date the men whose "beliefs" created Him — that is "one

of God's mysteries", mysteries, the backbone and blood of the cult.

If creation is a "mystery", just how should it, or any other mystery, be dealt with?

Rev. Niebuhr also informs us that this "infinite mind" would not be so wasteful as to allow our minds to perish" — THIS constituting a PROOF of immortality. Since the "infinite mind" has, through millions of years, created many billions of minds, the preservation of all of them must result in an interesting exhibit, both as to size and character — a REAL SHOW! Since, according to the Book, "few are saved", the waste of the remainder forms an interesting commentary on Niebuhr's "infinite mind."

"Belief in God implies belief in a power . . . which is in a sense beyond the comprehension of reason, as it is beyond the realm of actual existence." It is suggested that the reader exercise his logic or power of analysis on this Niebuhrian *bon mot*.

The Reverend Niebuhr also thinks Russell is wrong in his idea that Christianity often generates fanaticism; instead, Niebuhr holds that it inspires love. It might have added interest to his critique if he had pictured the great love displayed in the creation of the Christian Hell, to which the believers consign all who do not agree with their dogma, which, incidentally, is over three-fourths of humanity. He quotes from Chesterton that "Tolerance is the virtue of people who do not believe anything." If this protagonist of Roman Catholicism had added the word "religious" to his statement, it might pass as a general truth. In fact, Rev. Niebuhr evidently writes on the assumption that Time's readers have little knowledge of the history of Christianity, a record carefully blacked out by all Christian apologists. However, a person need probe but briefly the Church record to discover that intolerance is its middle name. No other religious cult large or small can compare with it — "Except that ye believe in Me ye shall be damned."

More than a page of the Times book review magazine is taken up with Niebuhr's captious, pontifical dogmatism. After all, have we a right to expect anything better from a Christian propagandist? Are they not indoctrinated from start to finish of their training with the idea that theirs is the only true religion — they are right, all others wrong — there is but ONE view of any religious question, namely the orthodox Christian view! Ask the average Christian cleric to discuss any question, religious or lay, and before he has finished, he'll be giving you "God's opinion" of the matter and advising that the real solution is putting the matter in the hands of Jesus. No one knows this better than a Times editor. May we not assume, therefore, that this model journal deliberately attempted thus to discredit Russell and sabotage the sale of his

book? "The Times would not do such a thing." Oh, would it not?

Older readers will vividly recall that not many years ago, Dr. Russell was engaged to give a course of lectures at New York University. On account of his well known atheistic views, the hierarchy of the "only true church" staged a vicious attack upon him and the school. They marshalled to their nefarious campaign all of the boot-licking newspapers, the cheap politicians and other rabble and raised such a stink that Dr. Russell was forced to discontinue his course of lectures. Where did the great Times stand on this matter? For many years previous to this, the Truth Seeker Publishing Co. had regularly carried a small ad, "Atheist Books for sale" in the Times classified ads. In the midst of the disgraceful attacks upon Dr. Russell, the Truth Seeker Co. was notified by the Times that it was discontinuing the ad of Atheist Books. You can imagine, therefore, how this wonderful journal stood up for free speech. It, of course, was still in favor of freedom of the press — freedom to suppress what it wished, but it lacked the moral courage to face!

When the Times published Niebuhr's petty review of Russell's "Why I Am Not a Christian" (9-22-57), I wrote the Times, calling attention to some of Niebuhr's absurdities and requesting publication of my remarks. My request was ignored.

Rev. Niebuhr takes exception to Dr. Russell's determinism, thus leaving the impression that he, Niebuhr, believes in free will, a characteristic equivocal trick of the Christian Clergy — and not the only one, for most of them do not believe what they preach. Niebuhr probably does not believe in free will, but, like most clerics, lacks the moral courage to admit it.

The distinguished cleric has a good press agent, is able to make the "popular" headlines quite

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frequently; may I suggest that he sometime explain to us why he, and his friends of the advertising press, are so fearful of the atheists and their ideas. The press will at any time print any amount of the veriest drivel in behalf of Christianity, but nothing in answer thereto, nothing telling the truth about the Bible or the Bible pounders, this in spite of the fact that at least half their readers are unorthodox, not communicants of any church. Is the "press" afraid of atheists? This would be very strange, as most press writers are unorthodox. (Note "press writers", not press owners). Or is the press afraid of the Clerics?

Why should the press debase and stultify itself by prostituting its columns to a system of deliberate deception? No one knows better than the press managers that the majority of the earth's population take no stock in Christian dogma — and never will!

Santayana has said that we should abandon our illusions if we expect to attain our ideals.

## WORLD UNION OF FREETHINKERS

BRUSSELS, August 1958

The WUF this year sponsored a social weekend at Brussels in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Belgian Freethinkers from August 30th through the 2nd of September.

Having read many of the articles sent over by Dave Shipper to AR, and being a long-time reader of THE FREETHINKER, we chose this opportunity to combine a look at the International Exposition and to meet the leaders of the British National Secular Society.

We stayed at the Hotel Residence Herrman, central meeting place for the WUF at this meeting, and were able to meet many members of various national groups. Despite our very limited time we did have a chance to chat with Dave Shipper and his lovely new wife, with Colin McCall and with M. C. Bradlaugh-Bonner. Also, we had the pleasure of greeting Martin Lechner, also a long way from St. Louis, on his way to the Netherlands.

Dave Shipper had carefully written that I would find the NSS much more militant than the RPA or Ethical Union, and, that,

of course, the WUF shared the same distinction in relation to the IHEU. Of course, the differences among the NSS, the RPA and Ethical Union are not so great as to prevent cooperation, and the three are engaged in forming the Humanist Union in Great Britain.

I found all the members most enthusiastic about secularism and freethought, and most willing to contribute large amounts of energy and time in its propagation. I found less differences in the attitudes and beliefs of the members as compared to other organizations than they seemed to believe, although a definite difference in organizational emphasis and sociological construction of membership does exist. A most encouraging discovery was the willingness of all to cooperate on the broader front for a positive secular approach to life problems and against the encroachments of organized religion.

Indeed, in all our meetings with Rationalist, Freethinker, Secularist, Humanist or other Liberals, both in the United States and in Europe, we have found a remarkable similarity in outlook, in problems faced, and in determination to propagate the scientific point of view. Although many national situations differ tremendously, I believe that the values shared among the various groups and nationalities far outnumber our differences.

We hope to visit more extensively in the NSS in October, and to have more impressions and facts to report to readers of AR.

George von Hilsheimer,  
former Director of Religious  
Education,  
Ethical Society of St. Louis,  
now (reluctantly) Pfc. AUS

## ON THE BIBLE by J. M. Chadwell

Their eyes stay glued upon one book  
Venturing not a side-wise look.  
Suppose we took that attitude

Towards our stomach's daily food?  
Eventually, I rather think  
Our "tummies" would be on the blink.



## THE WIDE, WIDE MOVEMENT

by ELDON SCHOLL

*All organizations are urged to send in their news, programs, activities, elections, socials, past or future, and pictures of meetings, officers or members, or anything of interest to Rationalists.*

**RATIONALIST CONVENTION** — The largest convention of the American Rationalist Federation was held in August in Jefferson Hall, the home of the Freie Gemeinde, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The first impression the delegates and visitors had was the fine building owned by the Freie Gemeinde, one of the founding members of the federation.

Jefferson Hall is located on Fond du Lac, one of the main diagonal streets in Milwaukee. Its three floors contain eleven large meeting rooms, one large enough to hold 1400 persons. There is a 12 lane bowling alley in the basement. The building is kept in excellent condition by the German organization of Freethinkers.

The delegates began their activity in the best possible way, by attending a luncheon served by the women of the Freie Gemeinde. At least sixty persons were on hand at the opening of the meeting.

Walter Hoops, secretary, gave his report of the growth of the organization during the past year from nine local and four state groups to eleven local organizations and 21 state-wide groups covering 39 states. Noting that the federation was only three years old he said that "We are definitely on the right track," and that he hoped the federation would become an important power in our country.

The financial report from treasurer James M. Kaigler again proved that the democratically-operated federation was soundly organized for growth even though the funds used for its operation are fantastically small.

Many visitors new to Rationalist conventions may have found that delegates discussed too many fine points too carefully, but they would have to realize that the "old-timers" found this to be important due to past experience and also that the delegates and officers are spread over great distances and only once a year are able to get together. Another point that was brought to many new-comers was that the federation is composed of independent organizations and that the convention is the legal body for national activity. There is no way to impose any idea or program on these groups without cooperation and mutual agreement. This was, as past conventions, a business meeting of eleven organizations.

Delegates and visitors came from as far as New York, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Missouri. In spite of the seriousness of the meeting there were a few amusing incidents, such as the definition of "sereno" used by Kenneth Klinkert for describing the brand of "spiritually adjusted" people who must be the peace advocates in the religious world. Evidently there are people who do call themselves by this name. Mr. Klinkert told about opposition to joining the Democratic Party because he is an atheist, and the great deal of publicity he has gained from this mere act of wanting to join a political party. The newspapers have given it headlines in many places around Milwaukee. He has produced a lot of wordage about the case and many agree with his stand against discrimination in political parties.

There was one problem brought up again from the last convention, the case of the small groups who do not have funds to send delegates to the convention. This was brought up by the New York organization which had a good distance to travel. Suggestions were made to try to work out some system of helping the smaller groups. As in the past years most of the larger groups pay expenses of delegates. All the smaller groups do not pay expenses but each delegate pays his own expenses. This applies to St. Louis, Chicago and other cities. Due to finances available nothing definite could be arranged at the convention.

The high point of the convention was the banquet in which more than 70 persons attended. Victor Cejka was the master of ceremonies and he handled it in his usual warm style. Mrs. Vashti McCollum told about the effects of her supreme court case on her family. She is still experiencing pranks played upon her and her family years after the famous "released-time" supreme court case, and all by "well-meaning" Christians. Her



Boyd Wamack, president of the ARF, stands before Jefferson Hall, scene of the ARF convention.



Sam Hill of St. Louis, Pat O'Connor of Chicago and Arthur Cromwell talk at the entrance door to Jefferson Hall.

father, the well-known Arthur Cromwell gave a talk on prayer that was enthusiastically received. Donald Sweet, of Chicago, gave a talk on population explosions. Sam Hill of St. Louis recited an original poem on beers, referring to the Milwaukee and St. Louis brands. Letters and telegrams were read from those who could not attend, one from the World Union of Freethinkers, to which the American Rationalist Federation belongs. Pat O'Connor won a set of Paine's works in a drawing of names. Over twenty others spoke, each for a few minutes.

The only roll call vote necessary in the convention was on the location of the next convention. It was won by Chicago. The new board of officers elected was Boyd Wamack, President; Mazie Wolf and Elmer Johnson, Vice-Presidents; James Kaigler, Treasurer; and Walter Hoops, Executive Secretary, with the nominating committee's recommendation of two appointed positions (due to limitation of number of officers in Constitution) of Ralph Blois as Corresponding Secretary and Ronald Pesha as Organizing Secretary.

Again, the two-day convention was far too short to handle all the necessary business to take care of another year of activity. Few of the delegates were able to see anything of Milwaukee itself. Many of them were not able to meet and talk with all the delegates. They all look forward to next year's convention in Chicago for an even larger convention. In the meantime, delegates returned to their local organizations to put in another year of work and activity. A Milwaukee newspaper gave a good account of the convention.

**NEW YORK RPA BEGIN NEW SERIES —** The NEW YORK CHAPTER of the Rationalist Press Ass'n. presented a recorded program of the **Ancient Mariner**, and **Juno and the Paycock**. After refreshments there was a discussion of political and economic ideas of John Stuart Mill and other 19th century thinkers, with Leo Dilverman as moderator, in which the discussion lasted well into the midnight hour. The 1958-59 season will begin with recordings of Joyce, T. S. Eliot, and Swift. Their monthly bulletin **The Rationalist Reporter** has increased its number of pages.

**DEATHS —** George Seibel, Associate Editor of *Progressive World*, died at Lynbrook, N. Y. He was 85 years old and lived most of his life in Pittsburgh. From 1896 to 1911 he was literary and Sunday editor of the *Pittsburgh Gazette-Times* and from 1912 to 1925 he was managing editor of *Volksblatt und Freiheits-Freund*, a German daily in Pittsburgh. He was once national president of the American Turners, drama and literary editor of the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph*, and first director of the Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Mr. Seibel's best known books are *The Wine Bills of Omar Khayyam* and *The Religion of Shakespeare*. He loved libraries and said that every book is a professor ready to tell all he knows. The movement loses a good rationalist.

We regret to report that Frank Erickson, President of the Freethought Society of San Diego, died the end of August, 1958. True to his convictions to the last, there were no religious services. The San Diego Society and all Freethinkers regret the loss of this long time fighter for human emancipation from religious superstition.

**DETROIT ORGANIZES —** The first meeting of the Rationalists in Michigan was held on September 5th at the Lee Plaza Hotel in Detroit. There have undoubtedly been other meetings of Rationalists in Detroit and in Michigan, but this was the first meeting of the state organization, called by state secretary C. Harry Nims, with a view of getting enough members to organize a chapter in the Michigan Rationalist Society and in the American Rationalist Federation. It was decided to hold monthly meetings of the newly-organized group, with the meeting held in the same place. Election of officers was postponed until later. When an election is held, they will apply for a charter in the federation.

State Secretary Nims feels quite optimistic over the prospects of organizing the state for the ARF and has set himself a quota of six city charters and 600 members in the state within the following year, or by the next convention of the federation. He claims there are approximately a quarter of a million atheists and undecided in the state and is out to get as many as possible in the Rationalist camp.

**NEW HUMANIST MAGAZINE**—A new quarterly magazine of poetry **ANTHROPOS** will begin in the Fall devoted to Ethical-Humanist traditions. Contributions will be considered for the coming issues. The editors are convinced of the growing need for a poetry that expresses man's confidence in himself. It is their hope that the venture will provide a medium for both established and unknown poets. For information write to **ANTHROPOS**, Box 2863, Station B, Toledo 6, Ohio. The editor is J. Wm. Myers.

**CALIFORNIA FREETHINKERS HEAR LECTURES**—Dr. Maxime Negri gave an illustrated lecture on human evolution at the July meeting of the **FREETHINKERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**. At the August meeting Frank Vincent Wady, life-long member of the British Rationalist Press Ass'n., spoke on the subject "Atheism as a Virtue in Science, Literature, History and Public Life." In September the well-known James Hervey Johnson came from San Diego to give the organization one of his fine lectures to an audience of about 100. Editor Dr. Lowell H. Coate attended the meeting and then took a train to St. Louis after accepting the editorship of the American Rationalist.

**FLL LECTURES**—Lectures at the **FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE** of Philadelphia included **Strangers Look in**, by J. J. Filemyr, **Human Relations** by T. F. Stewart, **World Federalism and World Peace** by Stanley Gartman, **The Battle for the Mind** by Prof. James Skelton, **The Vatican's Role in World War II**, and, on November 23, **Understanding the Bible**, by Rev. Walter Wnek. Meetings are held on Sunday evenings, 8:00 p.m.

**RATIONALIST ASSOCIATION NEW POLICY**—At the annual meeting Rationalist Publications changed the name to the **Rationalist Association** which is now incorporated under the laws of the state of Missouri as a non-profit organization. It was decided to open membership to readers of AR, preferring those who can contribute toward the work of the organization. Membership is, as before, \$120, non-transferable and entitles members to vote and enter the activities of the newly-named organization which wants to widen its range of influence. Those who are interested should write a letter, telling about themselves and qualifications, to AR magazine.

**POSTAL FROM BRUSSELS**—The **AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION** office received a picture post card from the World Union of Freethinkers meeting in Brussels with signatures of thirteen participants in the annual meeting there.

**CHICAGO RATIONALISTS HONOR HAVLICEK**—In Chicago members of the **PIONEERS OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT** met with other

Czechs for the annual homage to Karel Havlicek Borovsky at the foot of his statue in Douglas Park. He is considered the greatest fighter for freedom, truth and justice the Czechs have ever had. Victor Cejka gave a speech in English. . . . Joe and Beverly Lacina announced the birth of a boy. Mr. Lacina is announcer and director of the Czech Rationalist Broadcast every Sunday evening over WTAQ.

**MIRACLE FEATURES LEWIS**—Joseph Lewis, president of the **FREETHINKERS OF AMERICA**, is featured in the **Miracle Magazine**, July issue, concerning his fight against Billy Graham. The magazine is put out by the A. A. Allen Revivals, Inc., which is selling its "miracle sawdust" from the revival tent meetings on a "no charge free-donation" plan. The magazine shows buckets of sawdust being prayed over before "given" to believers in miracle sawdust. Parts of Lewis' writings are quoted and the article ends by asking for funds to help fight Joseph Lewis. Mention is made of Lewis' suit against Jack Coe, who "slipped away into a land where Joseph Lewis cannot reach him!" We wonder if A. A. Allen will slip away to "heaven" too!

**CORRECTION**—In the last issue under this column we mentioned the new magazine **The Realist** was issued by the **Independent**, which we understand was in error. **The Realist** tells us they are "Independent of **The Independent**," and published by **The Realist Association**, a non-profit corporation. Their banner has been changed to "freethought criticism and satire" and the size changed to 16 pages.

**THE RATIONALIST SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS** held one of their largest picnics when they met at the home of one of their members for barbecued steaks, games and discussions. Member Martin Lechner represented Americans in his visit to the annual meeting of the World Union of Freethinkers in Brussels. Also there was George von Hilsheimer, recently assistant leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis. Mr. von Hilsheimer and his wife are visiting many parts of Europe while he is stationed in Germany with the United States armed forces. You will read of his reports on freethought organizations in AR.

**CHICAGO ADDS A NEW GROUP.** A new organization has been formed in Chicago called the **CLARENCE DARROW SOCIETY** and its first program presented Elmer Johnson of Milwaukee in a lecture entitled **A Magician Among the Spirits**. He demonstrated some of the stunts of mediums. Mr. Johnson has attended all of the state and national conventions of mediums. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and also a member of the Houdini Club. Formed to honor the memory of Darrow, the organization is planning to build a library of

literature and material pertaining to Clarence Darrow. Several items have been donated.

**FREETHOUGHT ACTION.** A young man in Illinois has recently formed a new Freethought Group called Freethought Action. The purpose of this group is the promotion of Freethought by combined action. Where possible FA will bring Freethought to the attention of the public. Already some success can be reported. For years, standard directories, found in almost all libraries, have not included the names of Freethought organizations or periodicals. FA contacted two of the largest directories, Ayers Newspaper and Periodical Directory, and Gales Encyclopedia of American Associations, and has received favorable replies. Future directories will carry Freethought listings, thanks to FA.

At the present time Freethought Action is restricted mostly to letter writing campaigns. One letter from one Freethinker can be ignored — hence the FA plan is to have each member write a letter on one project. One of the current projects of FA is an attempt to convince motion picture studios to make a Tom Paine movie. FA needs more writers . . . If you really want to help the Freethought cause, write to Freethought Action, P.O. Box 273, Rockford, Illinois. The only fee required is a stamped, self-addressed envelope. FA doesn't need members, just active participants.

**BERTRAND RUSSELL on TV.** — Interviewed by representatives from the Daily Telegraph, The Observer and the New Statesman recently in "Press Conference," Bertrand Russell must have left an enduring impression on those who were privileged to hear him (we hope not for the last time, though that time must come eventually).

As expected, he made another eloquent plea for international sanity, and rated the chances of mankind's survival into the 21st century as, at present, about 50-50. There were no questions on his academic philosophy, but a number were asked about his religion, or lack of it. To the question as to whether he was "afraid to die" the Grand Old Man presented a magnificent picture of amused tolerance in answering "Not in the least. Why?"

Asked whether he believed in "any kind of after-existence" he gave a decided negative. — "Fear is the motive behind all religious beliefs," he observed. What, then, had life offered? An enormous question to put to a man like Russell! He spoke of the joy he had taken in the acquiring of knowledge and the many friendships, some of them of a most intimate nature, he had made throughout his life. What a reply to the stupid type of Christian who says "If there is no life after death we are just so many cabbages"!

The attitude of his questioners was at times rather "anti," especially in the case of the Tele-

graph man, who would no doubt have liked to draw some concession from the great man on the religious issue. But Russell stood firm, a model of clarity and of matured opinion.

On the subject of freethinking he said there would have been more Freethinkers had it been safe to hold such views. The Telegraph man then proceeded to get freethinking mixed up with free activity of scientists in producing the H-bomb, a typical piece of Telegraph nonsense.

The whole interview (much more satisfactory than the paltry one conducted by Lady Barnett with him some time ago) was excellent propaganda for Freethought and Peace. —G.H.T.

**FOREIGN NEWS** — Dr. Edward Roux spoke before the RATIONALIST ASSOCIATION OF JOHANNESBURG on the subject **The Miracles at Lourdes**.

Dutch Freethinkers in Rotterdam had a lecture on *Religie en Atheïsme* from national President Dr. O. Noordenbos. The book *The New Class* by Milovan Djilas was reviewed by Dordrecht C. Brendel. Prof. Dr. H. Freudenthal lectured on *The Infinite*, at Utrecht. Willem van Iependaal spoke on *The Illusion of Immortality*.

Dave Shipper of Cardiff, Wales, visited members in remote parts of the Welsh mountains, some receiving their first visit from any freethinker. Dave showed them copies of AR.

Nottingham Branch of the NATIONAL SECULAR SOCIETY of England held a special public meeting in the Cooperative Hall for their speaker, NSS member O. C. Drewitt, who spoke on *Why I Left the Church*. Mr. Drewitt was formerly Father Norbert of the Dominican Friars, Blackfriars, Oxford.

Tom Mosley, Vice-President of the NATIONAL SECULAR SOCIETY, visited Cardiff, Wales, and spoke to the Wales and Western Branch on the subject **Freethought, Freewill and Determinism** before an audience which included Christians and Bahai visitors.

We are sorry to learn of the death of C. E. Ratcliffe of Somerset, England. Mr. Ratcliffe was interested in cooperatives and did a lot of good work for them. He published several small books of poems.

**DAVE SHIPPER**, foreign correspondent for AR was married recently and spent part of his honeymoon attending the Brussels convention of the World Union of Freethinkers, as any loyal Freethinker would have done. Shipper's International Pen-Pal idea, first started in AR has been mentioned in other freethought journals.

We are sorry to announce the death of S. K. Tarciffe, who was speaker at the South Place Chapel from 1912 on.

From London comes the word that Sir Julian Huxley, F.R.S., has been elected president of

the Ethical Union, at the Annual Congress this year.

Sir Julian was president of the First Congress of the International Humanist and Ethical Union in Amsterdam in 1952, and he took part in the Second Congress in London in July, 1957.

Among his achievements we note his distinguished career as biologist; he was Secretary of the London Zoological Society and was the first Director General of UNESCO. Sir Julian is the author of several books on such diverse subjects as the arts, the sciences, religion and the social problems. —News Notes.

# BOOKS

## LIFE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE by Harlow Shapley

The evolution of modern astronomy since the Copernican revolution of the sixteenth century has of course had an enormous effect in weakening traditional supernaturalism and thereby in strengthening Humanist and Rationalist philosophies. When Copernicus demonstrated that the earth went around the sun and therefore was not the center of the universe, he undermined the theory that man was the darling of the cosmos under the special care of a divine providence.

Successive developments in astronomy have steadily reinforced the clear implications of the Copernican view. Astronomers discovered that the sun, far from being at the center of things itself, is only a medium-sized star on the edge of a great galaxy, the Milky Way — that contains some 100 billion stars. And that galaxy is only one of billions upon billions of spiral nebulae, countless in number, drifting through the fathomless seas of space. The universe is truly "galacto-centric."

Now another revolution is taking place in astronomy, its able scientists in this field suggesting that in our stupendous cosmos there must be many other planets besides our earth upon which life of some kind has evolved. A most stimulating brief book dealing with this subject is *Of Stars and Men* (1958) by Professor Harlow Shapley, former Director of the Harvard Observatory. In his breezy and readable style, Professor Shapley gives his reasons for thinking that out of the more than 100 quintillion stars in the universe, at least 100 million have planetary systems suitable for organic life.

"The stars," Professor Shapley states, "are

composed of the same stuff as that which constitutes the sun and is found in the earth's crust. They are built of the same materials as those that compose terrestrial organisms. As far as we can tell, the same physical laws prevail everywhere. The same rules apply at the center of the Milky Way, in the remote galaxies, and among the stars of the solar neighborhood." And life "inevitably emerges and evolves wherever the chemistry, geology and climatology are right."

Professor Shapley suggests that life on other planets may well have resulted in biological forms higher than the animal man. He raises the question too whether perhaps "sense receptors, in quality quite unknown to us and in fact hardly imaginable, which record phenomena of which we are totally ignorant, may easily exist among the higher sentient organisms of other planets."

One of Britain's most eminent present-day astronomers, Fred Hoyle, agrees with Harlow Shapley about the probability of life-supporting planets throughout the universe. If these experts are correct, then we have yet another powerful reason for rejecting the traditional Christian theology of an omnipotent God whose primary concern was with the human race for whom he sacrificed his only son, Jesus, in order to redeem it from sin. To be fair to the other creatures comparable to man throughout the universe, God would have had to send Jesus to some 100 million planets to save them! Or did God have 100 million sons to do the job?

## RATIONALIST BOOK CLUB

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by Stephan Zweig

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For Humanists and Rationalists the deeper meaning of Professor Shapley's theory of life on other worlds is that it reinforces our sense of the unending potentialities and magnificence of Nature. — The ever-present, ever-developing splendor of the material universe far outdoes in actuality any conception that any religion has ever had of a supernatural God.

— Corliss Lamont

Beacon Press, 157 pages, \$3.50.

\* \* \*

#### "AT THIS, THE ROCK"

by Roy Petran Lingle

Reading a new theory pertaining to the origin of the gospels or some aspect of it is a fascinating pastime, especially if there seems a good deal of evidence for it and it gives a radically new picture of the situation in Jesus' time.

In general, the idea of this pamphlet is that when Jesus uttered the famous sentence giving the title for these essays he was speaking of the city, Petra. The translation should read "at this" rather than "on this" rock. In Greek, "petra" is feminine for "rock" and was used for a large mass of it, often some mountain stronghold, for example. The city bearing the name at the beginning of the Christian era was built in cliffs of stone, a center for important land routes, in northernmost Arabia.

Jesus, by this theory, may have been a claimant of the Nabatean throne (in Petra). We know some details of the political situation of the time, giving plausibility to the notion. Lingle has accumulated a surprising number of facts that seem to match the statements or implications of the gospels. If I should decide that this hypothesis is the best available to explain the true position of Jesus, I believe I would discard some of the parallels presented, yet there is much to take into consideration.

These essays were printed in "The Liberal" a few years ago. The slicker paper of this pamphlet improves the illustrations considerably.

—Harry E. Mongold

Rationalist Press, \$1.00. Order from AR Book Service.

\* \* \*

#### "TOMORROW WE'LL ALL BE GENIUSES"

by Gordon Caulfeild

The thesis of this book is the reasonable one that proper training and practice in observing will make the ordinary intelligence creative. This notion will arouse the opposition of some reviewers as being unorthodox psychology, but there are many arguments to bolster it.

In the first place, the present I.Q. tests have developed largely from tests successful with children. There is much need for new ideas for testing adults. Again, the definition of "intelligence" is debatable. Some definitions refer to what is learned rather than what is inherited. For example, one's ability to learn depends on what one

has already learned. Can you pick up new ideas in physics easily? It depends on the meanings you are able to attach to what you see, which in turn depends on what you have learned about things in other contexts. In at least some ways, one can become more like a genius by learning more, regardless of whether he can learn fast or in many fields.

In the third place, the thesis at hand is not that one can raise the I.Q., assigned him by a test, necessarily, but that one can become as one who is popularly known as a "genius." That is, one can spend time on problems rather than pass them by, he can collect various hypotheses others have had, and he can consider new ways of testing or explaining until in at least one subject he can offer some significantly new thought.

In the fourth place, inasmuch as creative ability in any field may depend on what present intelligence tests measure, it should be mentioned that scores on such tests can be raised significantly in some environments. We have data of this nature on identical twins and others. To the objection that a few points on the I.Q. scale is not a great difference, it may be pointed out that the type of training that will raise a test score most is controversial. At present we are even widely discussing how best to teach anything from spelling to science in the public schools. Perhaps, then, our present data on the raising of I.Q.'s is based on inefficient methods of improving environment.

This book is not technical. It gives no graphs and records, no experimental details. It is a very readable discussion, based on simple, but unusual, observations.

—Harry E. Mongold

Pageant Press, \$2.00. Order through AR Book Service.

\* \* \*

#### "THE BIRTH OF THE GOSPELS"

by William Benjamin Smith

The historicity of Jesus is a question most Rationalists need to know more about, and this is a good book on the subject. I do not hesitate to recommend it to readers of the "American Rationalist."

One of the leading ideas of the book, presented by the author in a scholarly and convincing fashion, is "The Equation Son of Man = Israel, which is the Key to the understanding of the New Testament and Protochristianity." Though I agree with Smith that the "Son of Man" in Daniel and Enoch is a personification of the Israelite nation, and "The Proto-Christian soul was fed on 'dark sayings' daily (John 16:25), on signs, on allegory," I cannot agree that the Gospel stories presenting this "Son of Man" as a historical person were deliberate fictions, "a concession to the heathen hardness of heart."

It may be true in some cases that "the incidents and sayings were at first devised in more or less clear consciousness that they were figments of fancy," but one should recognize that the Gospels

as we have them are not as they were at first. The origin of the Gospels becomes more understandable as a natural historical process when one reads that "very gradually, piece by piece, saying by saying, incident by incident the story was built up by the general Christian Consciousness expressing itself through countless individuals in countless fashions agreeing in the main, though often slightly and sometimes widely discrepant . . ." "Insensibly and yet speedily the fictions, the parables and symbols, came to be received more and more as facts and their underlying meaning forgotten."

Other important sources of Gospel stories, as the author shows by many examples, are Old Testament prophecies, which the stories were supposed to fulfill, and partisan dogmas.

At the end of the book is an important appendix on the Chronology of the Early Gnostic Sects, showing many parallels between them and the Early Christian Church.

—George A. Flink

Edited by Addison Gulick, Philosophical Library. Order through AR Book Service.

\* \* \*

#### "BEYOND FREUD"

by Camilla M. Anderson

"The main thesis of this book is that when a person is in emotional bondage to his past, he cannot experience 'the good life.' Who among us is not stimulated by this comment to follow the line of thought?

Dr. Anderson goes into the development and functioning of behavior and behavior problems, and proceeds to point out the road to mental health, concluding with a chapter on "Religion and Psychiatry" that no run-of-the-mill psychiatrist would have written.

For instance: ". . . It appears to me that not only does 'authority' say that the separation of man from Paradise is by reason of his having incorporated moral judgment, but it harmonizes completely with what I have found to be true clinically."

And again: "Man tends to accept almost blindly the particular system of moral values which he developed as a result of his own particular and individual experiences with his significant people (i.e., the people who had the capacity to allay or intensify his tensions). Even those assumptions which are totally individual are held tenaciously, while those which have a broader or cultural origin can scarcely be questioned. The patterns of behavior deriving from these value judgments are looked upon not as workable in such specific circumstances but as 'right' and therefore beyond question or critical appraisal. If this were not so there would be no ideological wars."

Besides this very important book, Dr. Anderson previously wrote "Saints, Sinners and Psychiatry" (Lippincott, 1950), in which she considers each of us—you and me—our character-

istics, our anxieties, and how to understand them and come to terms with them. All this is thoughtfully and simply written, and exciting to discover in this age when of the making of mediocre books there is no end.

Harper's, \$4.00.

\* \* \*

— Kay Vinling

#### HEAVENLY HUMOR

Heavenly Humor is the title of a laugh-laden pocket book which was recently published by the Rationalist Association. The cover, a bright orange and black, portrays the picture of an "angel" enjoying the book with the Pearly Gates below. This is one book that practically everyone will enjoy, be he devil, angel, or just you or me. It contains 149 pages of mirthful reading, all in the form of religious jokes and, as the subtitle states, is "an incense-laden garland of irreverent revelry." This is the type of book to have around the house, not only for toastmasters or entertainers, but for the pure fun it brings the reader. The chuckles you find in this book are numerous, so be prepared for a "heavenly" evening.

— N. Scholl

Rationalist Association. Price \$1.25.

\* \* \*

#### SHORT REVIEWS

"The Ugglians"  
by L. M. Fallaw

Philosophical Library, 90 pp., \$3.00. Satirical tale in the form of a biographical account. Chief of an African tribe feels the Call to save the world. Social and religious criticism.

"In Search of Reality"  
by Viscount Samuel

Philosophical Library, \$7.50. From a view of physical realism, although not materialism, considers ether, gravity, physical particles, social systems, morality, freewill. Some problems only described. — Thought-provoking appendix on physics.

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## HURRAH FOR ESQUIRE!

We urge all our readers to acquire a copy of the current November issue of *ESQUIRE* magazine and to write a letter of congratulations to its Editor on the remarkable rationalistic article by Ben Hecht on pages 67 and 68 entitled, "A New God for the Space Age". You will get more than your 60 cents' worth but your letter will serve to counteract the many other critical letters which the Editor will receive from orthodox religionists.

HUMANISM is simply a branch of Rationalism which deals with the religious aspect of Man's thinking from the assumption that "Man is the measure of all things".

—Arthur B. Hewson

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Here is shown our retiring Editor, Mr. Hewson, and our new Editor, Dr. Coate, seated together at the Speaker's Table at the 1948 Chicago Convention, as the speaker, Anton J. Carlson, of the University of Chicago, was delivering the major address at the Convention banquet, at which Dr. Coate was presiding as Master of Ceremonies.

## LET HUMANITY BENEFIT !

In a number of states (Missouri was the tenth in 1956) it is now possible to will your body to a medical institution or an anatomical board. The Missouri law reads as follows:

"Any person of sound mind, eighteen years of age or older, may by last will devise his real or personal property and may also devise the whole or any part of his body to any college, university, licensed hospital or to the state anatomical board for use in the manner expressly provided by his will or otherwise."

This can be done by signing a special form obtainable from the "American Rationalist" or by adding a codicil (supplement) to a last will or testament for those who already have made a will.

A similar procedure can be followed for persons who want to donate their eyes to the local Eye Bank. Eyes must be removed within 6 hours after death and must be transplanted within 48 hours. Eye Bank forms are also available at AR headquarters in St. Louis.

Rationalists should take advantage of these opportunities to serve mankind after their death. But arrangements must be made before death occurs. Do not leave them to survivors who may not agree with your ideas.

The same holds true for Cremation and non-religious Funeral Services about which we intend to furnish information later.

## A Challenge to Educators

by PHILIP HENSEL

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could arouse all teachers from their seemingly apathetic acceptance of the status quo and provide them with a truly great goal for which to work?

Today, more than ever before, Education must indeed become "Education for Real Life," because in order to be sure of life continuing at all, to prevent our mass incineration in one final, hideous, nuclear war, we are all going to have to become utterly realistic about this stupendous world problem. What will be the good of working out other things if this one completely basic problem of plain, unadulterated **survival** be unsolved? Just total annihilation . . . a dead planet . . . oblivion . . .

But who are educators to dare to calculate the answer to this greatest of all problems, the one that seems to have stumped all of the so-called experts?

We dare because it is simply AS educators that we are the ones most fitted to do so.

By experience, educators are the most flexible in facing and analysing new dilemmas. By training, we are specifically committed to the exploration and settlement of questions and controversies by democratic cooperation. Indeed, education, being basic to all else, (for even the brilliant nuclear physicist did not arrive at his world-shaking laboratories without sitting at the feet of teachers for many a long year) has as its basic concern adaptation to change. By tradition we are, therefore, remarkably open-minded, flexible, and progressive. Moreover, while the international experts are still attempting to solve

## NEW YORK RULING ON BIRTH CONTROL

The New York City board of hospitals has lifted its ban on birth-control therapy in city hospitals. The decision climaxed a controversy that had involved major religious groups and had won widespread attention throughout the country.

The board's resolution directed municipal hospitals to provide "medical advice — preventative measures and devices for female patients under their care whose life and health in the opinion of the medical staff may be jeopardized by pregnancy and who wish to avail themselves of such health services."

Physicians, nurses and other hospital personnel "who have religious or moral objections should be excused from participating in contraceptive procedures," the New York board directed.

Roman Catholic officials in New York immediately condemned the board's decision as one that introduces an immoral practice in our hospitals that perverts the nature and dignity of man. Protestant and Jewish religious groups generally had upheld the position taken by the board in ending its unwritten ban.

—U. S. News & World Report



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## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

What do we do here when we spend years of work and thought and thousands of pounds of solid cash on a new gun or an aerial battleship that turns out just a hairsbreadth wrong after all? — Scrap it. Scrap it without wasting another hour or another pound on it.

Well, you have made for yourself something that you call a morality or a religion or what not. It doesn't fit the facts. Well, scrap it. Scrap it and get one that does fit. That is what is wrong with the world at present. It scraps its obsolete steam engines and dynamos; but it won't scrap its old prejudices and its old moralities and its old religions and its old political constitutions. What's the result? In machinery it does very well, but in morals and religion and politics it is working at a loss that brings it nearer bankruptcy every year. Don't persist in that folly . . . —George Bernard Shaw

Page 141 — Major Barbara  
(abridged, Penguin edition)

"I think it possible that the governments of East and West, alike, may learn that their enmity is suicidal . . . If it cannot be learned, every increase of knowledge will be only a step towards ultimate and complete disaster."

—Bertrand Russell

"Civilization will advance when the last brick from the last church falls on the last priest."

—Emile Zola.

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Speaker's table: Boyd Wamack, Arthur Cromwell, Vashti McCollum, Victor Cejka, Walter Hoops, James M. Kaigler.

world problems by "Power Diplomacy," balancing force against force, we educators are teaching, preaching, and living this co-operative democracy every day of our lives in our schools across the land. Teachers everywhere are reaching daily deep into the hearts and minds of their students, whether or not they are aware of this. Since most children are reached by teachers, how powerful this influence must be!

If we truly believe in the co-operation we preach to our children, WHY NOT WORK FOR IT ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

Here is where the principle of democratic co-operation obviously is most needed. More, it is the only solution. Here is the challenge of our lives; indeed, FOR our lives.

The educator's special concept of democratic co-operation can solve this world problem if we leave indifference behind and take hold with both hands. If properly applied, it would also gradually solve all other pressing social problems of our times. Surely teachers all over the world, being of the educative turn of mind, would respond heartily to a warm, courageous call to work with us. Then the peoples of their lands would, in turn, join with THEM, just as the people of this country will join with us when we show them the way; for everyone's heart is with his children. And it could truly be that the little child, guided by the sincere new world ideals of his teacher, might lead them.

Yes, the world itself must be our community, and its life, our life.

Do you believe in these principles? Your action, in response to this challenge, could be your answer.

Note: Philip Hensel is a teacher of long-standing, father of four, an American home-owner and tax-payer. His wife is also a teacher, and student of world affairs, with emphasis on the humanities.

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